THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENMAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO):.(a) Government has undertaken modernisation of intellectual property offices comprising patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications. This includes: recruitment of technical officers, development of facilities for training, computerisation and re-engineering of work procedures, development of work manuals for ensuring uniformity in operations, preparation of data base, strengthening of library and search faculties, infrastructure up-gradation, etc. These initiatives seek to make the system efficient and user friendly as also to install an intellecutal property administration comparable to international standards.

(b) Assistance of international experts is being availed through World Intellectual Property Organization, a UN organization, specialized in intellectual property matters to structure and implement the modernization efforts efficiently.

Higher Officials under CBI investigation

†2028. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that persons posted on higher posts in different commercial institutions under his Ministry are under CBI investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of institutions where such officials are posted alongwith post on which they are posted;

(d) since when CBI investigation was initiated in respect of each of officials; and

(e) the present status of the each investigation case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation is investigating two cases against General

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Manager level officers in commercial institutions under the administrative control of Department of Commerce.

(c) the two cases involve General Managers in India Trade Promotion Organisation and Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation.

(d) Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a Regular Case on 30.9.03 against the officer of India Trade Promotion Organisation and a Regular Case dated 23.7.2002 has been registered against the officer of Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation.

(e) Both the cases are under investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation.

Shortage of medicines in health centres

2029. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many health centres, both primary and secondary in many States face severe shortage of medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing stocks of medicines have either expired or are outdated; and

(d) if so, the steps Government intend to take to check that medicines supplied to the health centres are fresh and adequate?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) This Department supplies Kit A and Kit B, together comprising 15 items, to all sub-centres in the country. In addition, Essential Obstetric Care Kits. Emergency Obstetric Care Kits and kits for treatment of Reproductive Tract Infection/Sexually Transmitted Infection are supplied to all Primary Health Centres & Community Health Centres every year under the Reproductive and Child Health Project. No shortage has been reported from any State in this respect.

(c) and (d) No Sir, the shelf life of the drugs is between two to three years. At the time of dispatch of drug kits to the States, 5/6 shelf life of